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THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1947

W. F. W. BETENSON

M.B.

D.P.H.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

BRECON

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRECONSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you the 37th Annual Report of the School Medical Service and its work during the year ending 31st December, 1947.

During the year, 2,654 children were inspected who were attending the Primary and Secondary Schools and 862 attending the County Grammar Schools compared with 2,673 and 738 respectively in 1946.

All unnecessary matter has been deleted and only essential figures will be found tabulated in the report.

School Closures.—Seven Schools were closed on account of infectious disease.

EDUCATION ACT, 1944.

The following extensions and developments have arisen during 1947 from the putting into operation of this Act.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Commencing on January 1st, 1948, the ages for the routine medical inspections of school children were altered to conform to the new regulations of the Ministry of Education and it was decided to examine children in the following age groups:—

(a) **Entrants.**

All entrants to primary schools at age 5 or earlier.

(b) **2nd Age Group.**

All children on attaining the age of 10 in the primary schools.

(c) **Other Periodic Inspections.**

All entrants to county grammar schools.

(d) **3rd Age Group.**

(i) All children on attaining the age of 13 in the primary and modern secondary schools.

(ii) All children on attaining the age of 15 in the county grammar schools.

In addition to the above routine inspections children will be examined as "specials" or "re-inspections" in exactly the same manner as before.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS.

During 1947 new types of medical and dental record cards and envelopes were introduced by the Ministry of Education for universal use by all authorities in England and Wales instead of, as heretofore, each authority having its own type of card. The new records cards were designed to secure a continuous medical and dental history of all pupils attending maintained schools and to facilitate the transfer and convenient storage of records when a child moves from one school or area to another. The new record cards are being used for entrants to school of the ages 4—5 only until in course of time the new cards have superseded the old ones entirely.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

In 1947 a scheme for the provision of hospital treatment for pupils attending maintained schools in the County was approved by the Minister of Education and was put into operation. Under this scheme financial responsibility was accepted for all pupils treated at the hospitals named below, it being the duty of hospital secretaries to notify the School Medical Officer's Department of any cases admitted to their respective hospitals for whom prior approval for admission or treatment had not been given. Any cases admitted, however, without the authority of this Department for complaints for which the Breconshire Education Committee have an existing scheme, e.g., tonsils and adenoids, squint, orthopaedic, are not accepted and are considered to be private cases.

Aberdare General Hospital.
Abergavenny Cottage Hospital.
Brecon War Memorial Hospital
Builth Cottage Hospital.
Cardiff Royal Infirmary.
Crickhowell War Memorial
Hospital.
Ebbw Vale Hospital.
Hereford General Hospital.
Hereford (Victoria) Eye
Hospital.

Llandovery Cottage Hospital.
Llandrindod Wells Hospital.
Merthyr General Hospital.
Nantyglo and Blaina Hospita
Penrhiwtyn Infirmary,
Neath.
Royal Gwent Hospital.
Newport.
Swansea General Hospital.

Save in exceptional circumstances the Breconshire Educa-

tion Committee does not accept responsibility for the cost of treatment at hospitals other than those named above.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. F. W. BETENSON,

School Medical Officer.

County Health Offices,
Watton, Brecon.

TABLE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Number of Departments	...	104
Number of Scholars on the Roll	...	7712
Average Attendance	...	6925.2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—

Number of children immunised during the six months ended 30th June, 1947:—

	Aged 0-5	5-15	Total.
Combined districts of Brecon Urban and Rural; Builth Urban and Rural; Hay Urban and Rural; and Llanwrytyd Urban
Brynmawr Urban	200	12	212
Crickhowell Rural	39	1	40
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural	36	19	55
Ystradgynlais Rural	87	—	87
	138	5	143
Total	500	37	537

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS—

Number of children examined:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals
Routine Inspections	1042	969	2011
Special Inspections	131	82	213
Re-Inspections	254	210	464
Totals	1427	1261	2688

COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS—

Number of children examined:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals
Routine Inspections	... 273	373	644
Special Inspections	... 14	15	29
Re-Inspections	... 40	113	153
Totals	... 327	501	828

TREATMENT OF VISION—

1. Number of children examined in the year...	381
2. Number for whom spectacles	
(a) were prescribed	... 345
(b) were obtained	... 336

Table of Cases examined by the Assistant School Medical Officer.

No. of cases seen.	No. referred to Eye Specialist.	No. of cases for whom glasses were prescribed and obtained.	Prescription given for glasses privately.
264	*79	165	7

*(41 of these cases were squints, the remainder being chiefly progressive myopic astigmatism).

Table of Cases examined by the Eye Specialist.

No. of cases seen.			No. of cases for whom glasses were prescribed and obtained.	Prescription given for glasses privately.
New Cases.	Re-Inspections.	Total.		
112	117	229	171	2

EYE OPERATIONS—

Mr. G. W. Hoare, the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, held three operative sessions at Brecon War Memorial Hospital during the year and operated on 7 children for squint or other defects. Each squint case was detained in hospital for 6-7 nights and

following up visits to the hospital were paid by the Assistant School Medical Officer.

Date.	No. of children operated upon.	Type of Operation.	No. of following up visits by Asst. S.M.O.
7. 5.47	3	3 squints.	3
5. 9.47	1	1 removal of cyst from right upper lid.	Child not detained.
11.12.47	3	3 squints.	3
Totals	7		6

ORTHOPÆDIC.

Orthopædic Clinics were held in the Brynmawr, Ystradgynlais and Cefn Coed areas at regular intervals by the Orthopædic Sister, Miss I. Leefe.

Mr. A. O. Parker, Orthopædic Surgeon, visited the County on 6/6/47—see table below. Urgent cases were sent to see him at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff. Mr. Parker performed 4 operations at Brecon Hospital on 13th November, 1947.

Table of cases seen by the Orthopædic Surgeon.

CENTRE. DATE OF EXAMINATION.	Brecon 6/6/47.	Total.
1. Number of Children called up for examination ..	37	37
2. Number of Children Present and Examined ..	33	33
3. Number found not to require Treatment ..	2	2
4. Number found to require Domiciliary or Clinic Treatment	30	30
5. Number found to require Hospital Treatment ..	1	1
6. For X-Ray	—	—

DENTAL TREATMENT—

Apart from the treatment figures given in Table II, Group IV, the following treatment has been carried out:—

Dentures supplied	...	11
Reg. Plate Adjustments	...	69
No. of Reg. Plates supplied	...	13
Number of Impressions taken	...	45
Number of Vincents treatments	...	3
Number treated for Vincents	...	1
X-Ray Plates	...	2

NUTRITION—1947.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY.

DR. W. F. W. BETENSON.

Group.		Number Ex'min'd	A	%	B	%	C	%
Entrants	...	457	224	49'02	199	43'54	34	7'44
2nd Age Group	...	339	197	58'11	118	34'81	24	7'08
3rd Age Group	...	69	47	68.12	21	30'43	1	1'45
Totals	...	865	468	54'10	338	39'08	59	6'82

DR. R. CAIRNS FORRESTER.

Entrants	...	765	523	68'37	236	30'85	6	0'78
2nd Age Group	...	344	200	58'14	135	39'24	9	2'62
3rd Age Group	...	37	24	64'86	13	35'14	—	—
Totals	...	1146	747	65'18	384	33'51	15	1'31

TOTALS.

Entrants	...	1222	747	61'13	435	35'61	40	3'27
2nd Age Group	...	683	397	58'13	253	37'04	33	4'83
3rd Age Group	...	106	71	66'99	34	32'07	1	0'94
Grand Totals	...	2011	1215	60'42	722	35'90	74	3'68

NUTRITION—1947.

COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

DR. W. F. W. BETENSON.

Group	Number Ex'min'd	A	%	B	%	C	%
Other Periodic Inspections ...	152	95	62'5	55	36'18	2	1'32
3rd Age Group ...	121	92	76.03	25	20'66	4	3'31
Totals ...	273	187	68'50	80	29'30	6	2'20

DR. R. CAIRNS FORRESTER.

Other Periodic Inspections ...	213	143	67.13	63	29'58	7	3'29
3rd Age Group ...	160	121	75.63	39	24'38	—	—
Totals ...	373	264	70.78	102	27'35	7	1.88

TOTALS.

Other Periodic Inspections ...	365	238	65'21	118	32'36	9	2'47
3rd Age Group ...	281	213	75'63	64	22'78	4	1'42
Grand Totals ...	646	451	69'81	182	28'17	13	2'01

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections 1947.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

NUMBER OF CODE GROUP INSPECTIONS—

		P. & S.		C.G.
Entrants	...	1222	...	—
Second Age Group	...	683	...	—
Third Age Group	...	106	...	281
		—		—
Totals	...	2011	...	281

NUMBER OF OTHER PERIODIC INSPECTIONS—

		—	...	365
		—		—
Total Routine Inspections	...	2011	...	646

B.—Other Inspections .

Number of Special Inspections		208	...	34
Number of Re-Inspections	...	435	...	182
		—		—
Totals	...	643	...	216

Grand Totals ... 2654 ... 862

„ „ (1946) 2673 ... 738

**PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & COUNTY GRAMMAR
SCHOOLS.**

TABLE II.

Return of Defects treated during the Year ended 31st December.
1947.

Group 1.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which
see Group V).

Number of Defects Treated or under Treatment during the year.

Disease or Defect.	Under the Authority's Scheme	
Skin—		
Ringworm—Scalp (i) X-Ray Treatment ..		—
(ii) Other ...		2
Ringworm—Body ...		12
Scabies ...		39
Impetigo ..		75
Other Skin Diseases ...		20
Minor Eye Defects—		
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II) ...		22
Minor Ear Defects ...		31
Miscellaneous (<i>e.g.</i> , minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ...		196
Total ...		397

**PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & COUNTY GRAMMAR.
SCHOOLS.**

TABLE II.—Continued.

Return of Defects treated during the Year ended
31st December, 1947.

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint

(excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments).

Defect or Disease.	Number of Defects dealt with.					
	Under the Authority's Scheme.		Other- wise.		Total.	
	P.& S.	C.G.	P.& S.	C.G.	P.& S.	G.C.
Errors of Refraction (including squint), (Operations for Squint are recorded separately in the body of the Report) ...	287	94	—	—	287	94
Other Defects or Diseases of the Eyes (excluding those record- ed in Group I) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	287	94	—	—	287	94

Number of Children for whom Spectacles were—

	P.S.	C.G.	Total.
(a) Prescribed ...	261	84	345
(b) Obtained ...	254	82	336

**PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR
SCHOOLS.**

TABLE II.—Continued.

Return of Defects during the Year ended
31st December, 1947.

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment—

(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	...	102
(b) for other nose and throat conditions	...	2
Received other forms of treatment	...	—
		<hr/>
Total	...	104

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.—Continued.

Group IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment, 1947.

1.	No. of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—	
	(a) Periodic age groups	... 5069
	(b) Specials	... 357
	(c) Total (Periodic and Specials)	... 5426
2.	No. found to require treatment	... 2910
3.	No. actually treated	... 2009
4.	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	... 2383
5.	Half-days devoted to: (a) Inspection	... 122
	(b) Treatment	... 538
	Total (a) and (b)	... 660
6.	Fillings: Permanent Teeth	... 1410
	Temporary Teeth	... 200
	Total	... 1610
7.	Extractions: Permanent Teeth	... 462
	Temporary Teeth	... 2890
	Total	... 3352
8.	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction...	16
9.	Other Operations: (a) Permanent Teeth	... 188
	(b) Temporary Teeth	... 17
	Total (a) and (b)	... 205

Group V.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions, 1947.

(i)	Average Number of Visits per School made during the year by the School Nurse	...	9
(ii)	Total Number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by the School Nurses	...	47028
(iii)	Number of individual Children found Unclean		233

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE III.

Summary of Weekly and Monthly Reports of
School Nurses, 1947.

DISTRICT.	Number of Monthly Visits Paid by Nurses to Schools.	Total Number of Children Examined.	Number of Visits paid for "Following-Up" Defects				Special Visits paid to Homes.
			First Visits.		Re Visits.		
			Home	School	Home	School	
FULL-TIME NURSES—							
Brecon Town and Country ...	107	4078	9	2	48	14	107
Brynmawr	42	2853	2	6	—	7	2
Falybont and Llanfrynach	19	844	8	—	—	4	7
Cefn Coed and Vaynor	75	5140	59	11	35	88	88
Ystradgynlais	190	14456	18	93	—	83	48
PART-TIME NURSES—							
Beulah (Llwynmadoc) ...	32	327	—	—	—	—	—
Brecon (Llanspyddid) ...	8	212	—	6	—	—	—
Builth Wells	43	2534	18	9	3	2	—
Crickhowell	103	3454	23	11	184	67	2
Defynock	75	2087	—	—	59	141	—
Hay	43	2225	30	2	—	7	44
Llanelly Clydach & Gilwern	26	1361	19	6	32	25	12
Llanelly Darenfelen	19	1091	6	—	—	3	21
Llangorse	34	748	4	—	9	1	10
Llanigon and Glasbury	29	959	1	—	10	22	17
Llanwrthwl	23	476	1	—	—	—	—
Llanwrtyd Wells	21	1013	19	1	44	—	—
Llysawen and Erwood	29	663	—	—	—	—	—
Newbridge-on-Wye	7	145	5	—	73	—	—
Talgarth	57	2108	16	20	1	29	—
Relief Nurse (Builth)	5	304	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	987	47028	238	167	498	443	308
" 1946	989	50802	315	160	932	42	438